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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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07/27/2004

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EXAMINER

PHAM, LY D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2818

DATE MAILED: 07/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/942,898	Applicant(s) LOVETT ET AL.	
	Examiner Ly D Pham	Art Unit 2818	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. In view of the Appeal Brief filed on July 1, 2004, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. New grounds of rejection is set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

- (1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,
- (2) request reinstatement of the appeal.

If reinstatement of the appeal is requested, such request must be accompanied by a supplemental appeal brief, but no new amendments, affidavits (37 CFR 1.130, 1.131 or 1.132) or other evidence are permitted. See 37 CFR 1.193(b)(2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 3 – 6, and 8 – 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kimura (US Pat 5,192,883).

Regarding **claims 1 and 6**, Kimura discloses a system, comprising:

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a processor (col. 4, lines 28 – 34, un-shown CPU);

a power supply coupled to the processor (col. 2, line 57 – col. 3, line 13, as power supply is present in the system, which is inherently supplying power to all the active components, including a CPU); and

a device (fig. 5, 150) coupled to the processor and the power supply and comprising:

an internal power supply bus configured to receive a power signal from the power supply (fig. 5, Vc); and

an isolation circuit (fig. 5, 102) configured to disconnect the internal power supply bus from the power supply by interrupting the flow of the power signal when a standby mode is indicated by a control signal received at the isolation circuit (fig. 5, control signal VBC when being low turn isolation transistor 102 off, col. 1, lines 20 – 33, ‘... transistor 102 adapted to connect/cut off the supply voltage Vc).

Regarding **claims 3 and 4**, Kimura also suggests the system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the system is a PDA or a handheld computer (col. 1, lines 14 – 17, applications of device include a laptop or high speed small recording medium of detachable type—which includes PDA).

Regarding **claim 5**, Kimura discloses the system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the device comprises a memory device (fig. 5, 101).

Regarding **claim 8**, Kimura discloses the system as set forth in claim 1, comprising an input buffer comprising a control line configured to control the isolation circuit (fig. 5, input buffer including inverter 106, which buffers the control signal to the isolation transistor 102).

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Regarding **claim 9**, Kimura further discloses the system as set forth in claim 8, wherein the isolation circuit is a p-channel transistor (fig. 5, 102 is a p-channel transistor).

Regarding **claim 10**, Kimura also shows the system as set forth in claim 9, wherein the gate of the p-channel transistor is coupled to the control line of the input buffer (fig. 5, control signal is VBC is coupled to the gate of isolation transistor 102).

Regarding **claim 11**, Kimura further discloses the system as set forth in claim 1, comprising an output buffer configured to buffer the device from the remainder of the system (fig. 5, output buffers include 107 and 108).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura in view of Confalonieri et al. (US Pat 5,638,330).

Regarding **claim 2**, Kimura discloses the system as set forth in claim 2, except wherein the system is a cellular phone. This is however shown by Confalonieri et al. (col. 2, lines 55 – 60). Therefore, it is considered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to include the application shown by Confalonieri et al. to the disclosure by Kimura, to reduce the power down consumption in portable devices (col. 2, lines 52 – 54).

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6. Claims 7 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura in view of Hoffman et al. (US Pat 5,117,129).

Regarding **claim 7**, Kimura discloses the system as claimed in claim 1, except wherein the isolation circuit is coupled between a pad on the device configured to receive the power signal and the internal power supply bus. This feature is however shown by Hoffman et al. (fig. 3a, PAD connects to supply line 150 connecting to isolation p-mos transistor 158). Therefore, it is considered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to include the feature shown by Hoffman et al. to the disclosure of Kimura to provide stable drive to loads, col. 2, lines 30 – 38).

Regarding **claim 12**, although Kimura did not disclose, in addition to claim 1, an I/O pad and circuitry coupled between the output buffer and the I/O pad to tri-state the I/O pad. The feature is nevertheless shown by Hoffman et al. (fig. 3a, I/O pad 152 for tri-stating configuration, col. 3, lines 25 – 36).

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

8. When responding to the office action, Applicant(s) are advised to provide the examiner with the page and line numbers in the application and/or references cited to assist the examiner to locate the appropriate paragraphs.

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9. A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 (three) months and 0 (zero) day from the date of this letter. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned (see MPEP 710.02(b)).

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication on earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ly Pham, whose telephone number is 571-272-1793. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Friday from 8:30am to 5:00pm, alternate Friday off. The examiner's supervisor, David Nelms, can be reached at 571-272-1787. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

Ly Pham



July 23, 2004



David Nelms
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800